Use of Electronic Voting Machines

2356. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Electronic Voting Machines were used on 10th May, 2001 in State Assembly Elections;

(b) if so, whether the use of these machines was successful; and

(c) if so, whether EVM will be used in all Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha elections in future?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The Electronic Voting Machines were used in the polling stations in all the Assembly Constituencies in the States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Union territory of Pondicherry in the polls held on 10th May, 2001 in the general elections to the Legislative Assemblies of these States/ Union territory. The Electronic Voting Machines were used in four Assembly Constituencies *viz.* 51-Jalukbari, 52-Dispur, 53-Gauhati (East) and 54-Gauhati (West) in the State of Assam.

(b) According to the Election Commission of India, the use of Electronic Voting Machines in the elections held in May, 2001, was successful.

(c) According to the Election Commission of India, the question of use of Electronic Voting Machines in future Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha elections will be considered by it at the appropriate time taking into account all aspects of the matter.

Non-circulation of Annual Audited Reports to shareholders by listed companies

2357. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the listed companies do not send the annual audited reports to the shareholders thereby violating the provisions of the Company Law;

(b) if so, whether Government have any regulatory authority to ensure that annual general meetings are held regularly and the statements of the annual performance reports, *inter-alia*, containing the audited financial position are circulated to the shareholders;

(c) whether Government have issued any show cause notices to the companies not complying with the requirements of law; and

(d) if so, the names of defaulting companies and action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) Companies registered under the Companies Act, 1956 are required to hold annual general meetings as per provisions of Section 166 of the Act. A company is required to send annual audited report with its annexures to the members as per provisions of Section 219 of the Act. The Registrars of Companies (ROCs) are not required to maintain records to the effect that companies have sent annual audited reports to the shareholders. In case of default coming to their notice, the ROCs issue default notices and initiate penal action.

Setting up of Family Courts

†2358. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Family Courts to be set up by Government under the Family Courts Act, 1984, State-wise;

(b) the number of such courts set up from 1984 to March, 2001, State-wise;

(c) the number of cases pending in these courts alongwith the period of pendency thereof, State-wise;

(d) whether Government propose to set up these courts in every State as per the target fixed for each State; and

(e) if so, the concrete steps Government have taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a), (b), (d) and (e) Family Courts Act, 1984 is an enabling Act. As per Section 3 of the Act, the State Government after consultation with the concerned High Court, may establish a Family Court for every area comprising a city or town whose population exceeds one million. No target has been fixed by the Central Government in this connection.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.